



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Required Report - Public distribution

**Date:** 2/3/2009

**GAIN Report Number:** TH9015

## Thailand

### Grain and Feed

### Weekly Rice Price Update

**2009**

**Approved by:**

Gary Meyer, Agricultural Counselor  
U.S. Embassy

**Prepared by:**

Ponnarong Prasertsri, Agricultural Specialist, Maysa Kunasirirat, Agricultural Assistant

---

**Report Highlights:**

Domestic and export prices increased due to tight domestic supplies. Farm-gate prices of white rice paddy have climbed to intervention prices (12,000 baht/ton (\$346/MT)) as millers aggressively secure paddy to fulfill parboiled rice export contracts. Although Vietnam white rice export prices remain far below Thai, Vietnam lacks the technical capacity to export significant quantities of parboiled rice.

---

Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Annual Report  
Bangkok [TH1]  
[TH]

**Indicative Prices (Week Ending Feb. 2):**

Thailand: Export (FOB) Prices for various grades of rice (USD/M.T.)									
	Exporter Observations							Period Avg.	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	850	-	900	-	860	830	-	860	845
WR 100 B	635	-	625	-	635	585	600	616	610
PB 5%	-	-	675	-	635	650	620	645	643
WR 5%	605	-	600	-	615	555	590	593	585
WR 10%	595	-	-	-	-	548	-	572	548
WR 15%	525	-	-	-	-	520	-	523	520
WR 25%	500	-	-	-	-	460	-	480	460
WR 35%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A 1 SUP	320	-	-	-	320	325	-	322	323
A 1 SPEC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Source: Average actual prices received from exporters, Exchange rate: 34.7 baht/U.S.\$									

**Market Tone**

Domestic and export prices increased due to tight domestic supplies. Domestic prices continued to increase despite the release of pending government stocks from last November's tender.

Millers continue to aggressively secure white rice paddy as the Government is inspecting intervention stocks nationwide to ensure quality and prevent slippage of rice from neighboring countries into the government program. Also, millers continue fulfilling parboiled rice deliveries to exporters. Export prices of parboiled rice surged beyond premium white rice due to strong demand from African countries, particularly from Nigeria. Meanwhile, fragrant rice export prices increased due to limited exportable supplies as most of the rice from last November's tender was for white rice and kept fragrant rice for the domestic market. In addition, off-season fragrant rice production should be lower than expected as unusually cold weather has reduced yields in several production areas.

Thus far, the MY 2008/2009 main-crop intervention program has absorbed 4.4 million tons of paddy valued at 51 billion baht (\$1.5 billion), of which 2.5 million tons are white rice paddy, and 1.2 million tons are fragrant rice paddy. It is expected that the intervention program, which ends February 28, will absorb approximately 6 million tons, far below target of 8 million tons. Farm-gate prices of white rice paddy have increased to intervention prices (12,000 baht/ton (\$346/MT)) as millers aggressively secure paddy to fulfill parboiled rice export contracts. Although Vietnam white rice export prices remain far below Thai, Vietnam lacks the technical capacity to export significant quantities of parboiled rice.

The following are the reported rice exports (as is basis):

WEEK ENDING	QUANTITY	4-WK AVG	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR AGO	YEAR TO DATE AS % OF LAST YEAR
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)	%
Dec 7	68,265	65,689	7,172	5,977	20.0
Dec 14	91,039	66,475	7,263	6,162	18.0
Dec 21	84,971	74,891	7,348	6,368	15.4
Dec 28	104,710	87,246	7,453	6,570	13.4
Dec 31	16,694	-	7,470	6,597	13.2
Jan 4	3,295	-	3	58	-94.3
Jan 11	87,324	-	91	220	-58.9
Jan 18	127,646	-	218	379	-42.2
Jan 25	141,973	90,060	360	557	-35.3
Feb 1	73,513	107,614	434	739	-41.3

*Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002, do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice exports was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official fragrant rice export data. FAS/BKK will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.*

Unofficial exports (excluding fragrant rice) for Jan. 26 – Feb. 1, 2009 totaled 73,513 tons, down 68,460 tons from the previous week, and down 34,101 tons from the four-week moving average of 107,614 tons. Exports during Jan. 1- Feb. 1 totaled 433,752 tons, as compared with 738,891 tons in the previous year.

According to the Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan. 1- 31, 2009, amounted to 629,480 tons, down 37.8 percent from 1,012,473 tons in the previous year.

### Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period of Jan 12-16, Jan. 19-23, and Jan. 26-30, 2009 are as follows:

Movement (MT)	Jan. 12-16	Jan. 19-23	Jan. 26-30
Weekly sales	159,463	151,719	108,700
4 week sum	-	-	542,224
4 week mov. avg.	-	-	135,556
Total weekly sales	281,805	433,524	542,224

End of Report.